



## Oasis Landscape Sustainable Management project

### Part I: Project Information

**GEF ID**

10538

**Project Type**

FSP

**Type of Trust Fund**

GET

**CBIT/NGI**

CBIT **No**

NGI **No**

**Project Title**

Oasis Landscape Sustainable Management project

**Countries**

Tunisia

**Agency(ies)**

World Bank

**Other Executing Partner(s)**

Ministry of Environment

**Executing Partner Type**

Government

**GEF Focal Area**

Multi Focal Area

**Taxonomy**

Drought Mitigation, Sustainable Land Management, Land Degradation, Focal Areas, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Biodiversity, Biomes, Desert, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Productive Landscapes, Species, Plant Genetic Resources, Animal Genetic Resources, Food Security, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Sustainable Agriculture,

Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Ecosystem Approach, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Pasture Management, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Cover and Land cover change, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Land Productivity, Climate Change, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Climate Change Adaptation, Adaptation Tech Transfer, Livelihoods, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Climate resilience, Community-based adaptation, Disaster risk management, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Demonstrate innovative approach, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries, Private Sector, SMEs, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Participation, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Communications, Behavior change, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Strategic Communications, Local Communities, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access to benefits and services, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Learning, Adaptive management, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Knowledge Generation, Innovation

**Sector**

Mixed & Others

**Rio Markers**

**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 1

**Submission Date**

4/16/2020

**Expected Implementation Start**

1/3/2023

**Expected Completion Date**

1/3/2028

**Duration**

60In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

347,030.00

**A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS**

<b>Objectives/Programs</b>	<b>Focal Area Outcomes</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
LD-1-1	Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM)	GET	1,899,760.00	31,492,000.00
LD-2-5	Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN	GET	949,557.00	1,636,000.00
BD-1-1	Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors	GET	803,653.00	16,872,000.00
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>3,652,970.00</b>	<b>50,000,000.00</b>

## B. Project description summary

### Project Objective

Support the integrated development of oasis landscapes in targeted governorates in Tunisia in order to contribute to achieving Land Degradation Neutrality while benefiting livelihoods and globally significant biodiversity

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Component Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Project Financing(\$ )</b>	<b>Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)</b>
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Project Component	Component Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1. Improve the environmental and economic management of oasis landscapes, strengthening gender equality.	Technical Assistance	<p>1.1. Historical oases are granted a juridical and legal status of national heritage</p> <p>1.2 A system of certification (including protected designation of origin) is established for oasis' products &amp; sub-products</p> <p>1.3 Capacity building and sensitization initiatives are launched for stakeholders, strongly considering women empowerment</p> <p>1.4 Participatory and gender-responsive local development plans are developed</p> <p>Participatory and gender-responsive local</p>	<p>1.1.1. Analyse existing legal and institutional provisions to support labelling of specific sites and provide necessary recommendations for improvement;</p> <p>1.1.2. Develop contractual specifications related to the NHOS status</p> <p>1.1.3. Conduct a process of formal labeling of historic oases</p> <p>1.2.1. Develop a comprehensive inventory of agriculture, handicraft and ecotourism products and sub-products of project oases landscapes that are managed by sustainable and climate smart practices</p> <p>1.2.2. Technical support to oases communities to certify oasis products and by-products under</p>	GET	622,394.00	4,506,000.00

Project Component	Component Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
2. Promote gender-responsive sustainable investment in oasis landscapes	Investment	<p>2.1 Oasis ecosystems functions restored (physical actions for the restoration of the ecosystems; restoration of the productivity; restoration and promotion of intangible heritage)</p> <p>2.2 Oasis productive alliances and value chains supported (agricultural &amp; artisanal productive alliances and sustainable ecotourism), strengthening gender equality</p> <p>Indicators: ha restored (measured by increases in SOC1, crop yields, wild- and agro- BD) / # productive alliances and VCs supported (disaggregated by dominant gender of beneficiaries)</p>	<p>2.1.1. Support land users (through sub-projects) to undertake actions essential to restore the ecosystem functions and carbon sequestration in oases and across wider landscapes using integrated landscape management approaches (linked to Output 1.4.1)</p> <p>2.1.2. Support land users to adopt actions essential to restore and promote the intangible heritage of the historical oasis that are key for their wild and agro-biodiversity conservation</p> <p>2.1.3. Training activities to support women entrepreneurs (MSMEs), women-led groups (CSOs, GDAs and POs) and female producers to</p>	GET	2,251,443.00	42,486,000.00

Project Component	Component Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
3. Gender-responsive project coordination, M&E and communication and knowledge management	Technical Assistance	<p>3.1 National and regional implementation units in place and operational.</p> <p>3.2 Project M&amp;E system operating effectively</p> <p>3.3 Communication and knowledge management systems implemented</p> <p>Indicators: # PMUs operational / M&amp;E systems operating / # C and KM systems operational</p> <p>Baseline: 0 / 0 / 0</p> <p>Target: 5 / 1 / 2</p>	<p>3.1.1. Functional Project Management Unit</p> <p>3.1.2. Functional Regional Project Implementation Unit</p> <p>3.2.1. Monitoring and evaluation system established, supporting adaptive project management (including formal GEF tracking, GEF7 Core indicators, specific LDN and Biodiversity indicators and participatory elements)</p> <p>3.3.1. Effective project communication and knowledge management within project Governorates, across wider WAHA project, Tunisia and the region in place</p>	GET	605,183.00	833,625.00

Project Component	Component Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
				<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>	<b>3,479,020.00</b>	<b>47,825,625.00</b>
<b>Project Management Cost (PMC)</b>						
		GET	173,950.00		2,174,375.00	
		<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>	<b>173,950.00</b>		<b>2,174,375.00</b>	
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>3,652,970.00</b>		<b>50,000,000.00</b>	

Please provide justification

**C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type**

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
GEF Agency	World Bank	Loans	Investment mobilized	50,000,000.00
<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>				<b>50,000,000.00</b>

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

World Bank co-financing will include \$50,000,000 loan (entitled WAHA project and aiming at: Strengthening the integrated development of oasis landscapes in targeted governorates in Tunisia to 30 June 2026), to which the GEF project will be fully blended.

**D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
World Bank	GET	Tunisia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	803,653	76,347	880,000.00
World Bank	GET	Tunisia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	2,849,317	270,683	3,120,000.00
<b>Total Grant Resources(\$)</b>					<b>3,652,970.00</b>	<b>347,030.00</b>	<b>4,000,000.00</b>
					<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**E. Non Grant Instrument**

**NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement**

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Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

**F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

PPG Required **false**

PPG Amount (\$)

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

<b>Agenc y</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$ )</b>	<b>Total(\$ )</b>
<b>Total Project Costs(\$)</b>					<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

## Core Indicators

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
25000.00	25000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
5,000.00	5,000.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
20,000.00	20,000.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

**Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)**

Title	Submitted
Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated	
<b>Total Target Benefit</b>	
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (direct)</b>	(At PIF) 617703 (At CEO Endorsement) 505753 (Achieved at MTR) 0 (Achieved at TE) 0
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (indirect)</b>	0 0 0 0
Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector	

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	617,703	505,753		
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2020	2023		
Duration of accounting	20	20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	16,899	19,899		
Male	16,899	19,899		
Total	33798	39798	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

**The project will contribute to UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework Strategic Objective 1: improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality; as well as to achieving Tunisia's voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets<sup>3</sup> that are being defined (Tunisia recently engaged in the LDN target setting process), through its focus on increasing the area of oases landscapes under improved practices (sustainable land management). LDN is also recognized as an accelerator and integrator for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and for playing a critical role in carbon sequestration and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. By focusing on restoring degraded lands (using sustainable land management practices) prioritised based on ecosystem and biodiversity values, as well as through its targeted outreach, knowledge management and capacity building activities, the Project is also expected to contribute to the Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity. These targets are constituted by five strategic goals, to all of which the proposed Project will contribute to: Strategic Goal A: To address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society. Strategic Goal B: To reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use of oasis resources. Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity. Strategic Goal D: To enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services. Strategic Goal E: To enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management, and capacity building. More specifically, the project will contribute to achieving the following Aichi Targets<sup>4</sup>: 1 People are aware of the values of biodiversity [and ecosystems] and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably; 4 Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits; 5 The rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced; 7 Areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity; 14 Ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable; and 15 Ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15% of**

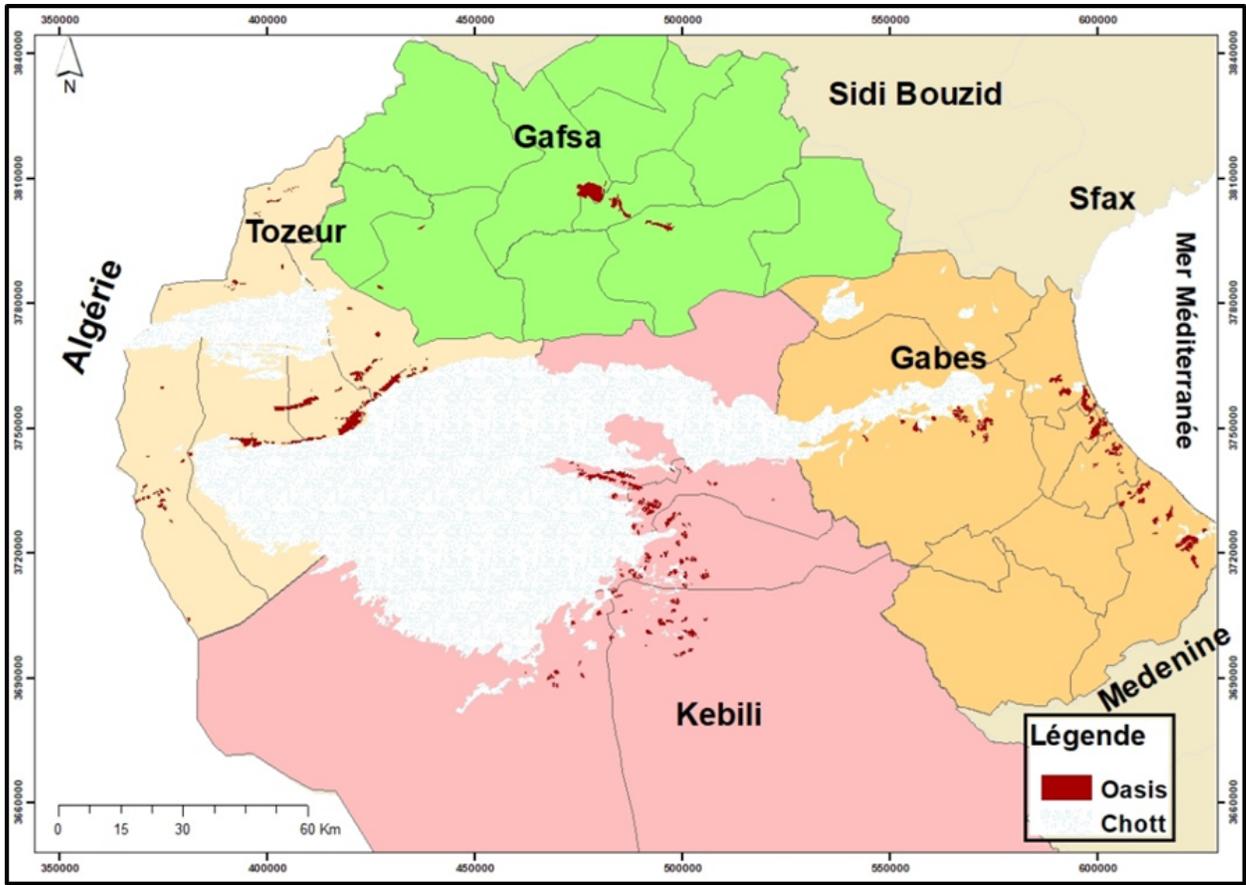
**degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.**

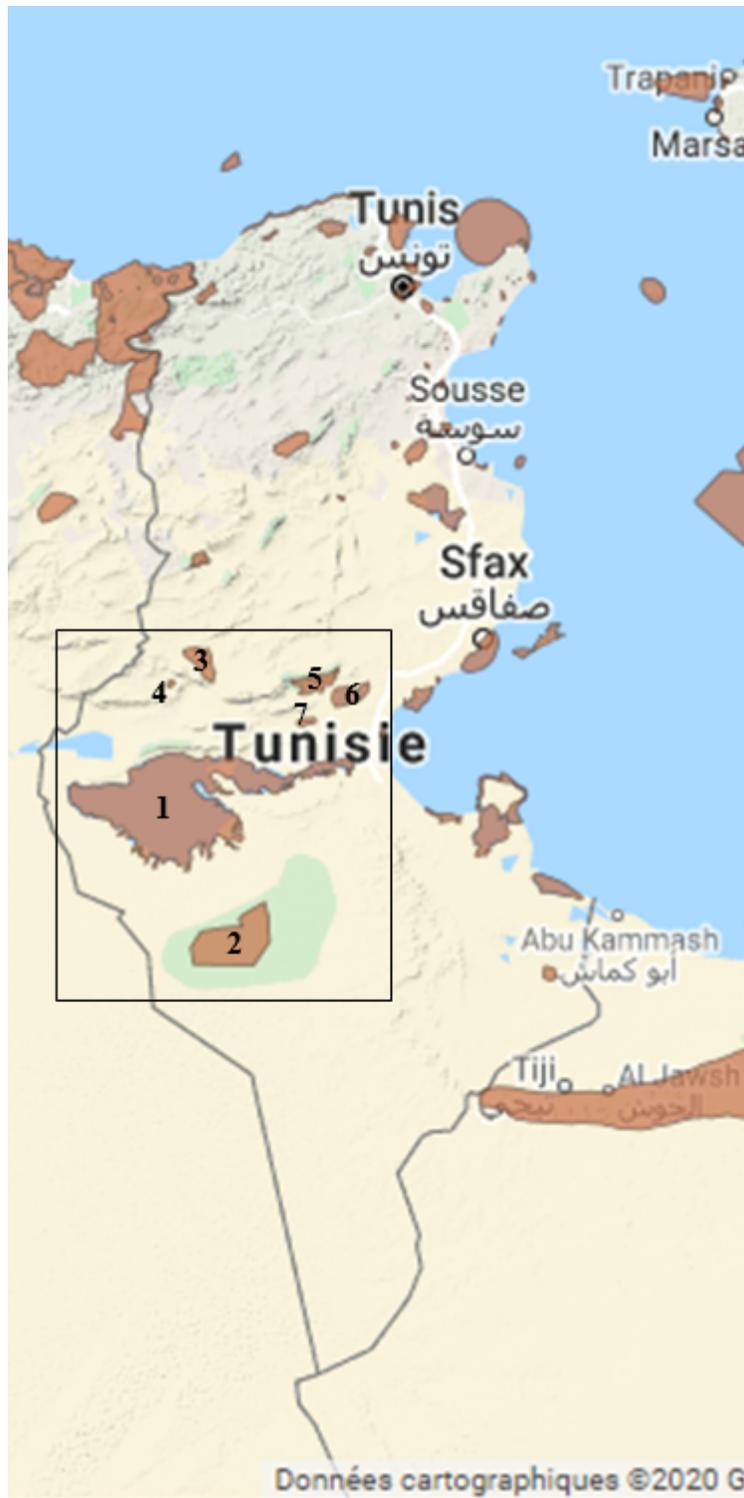
## Part II. Project Justification

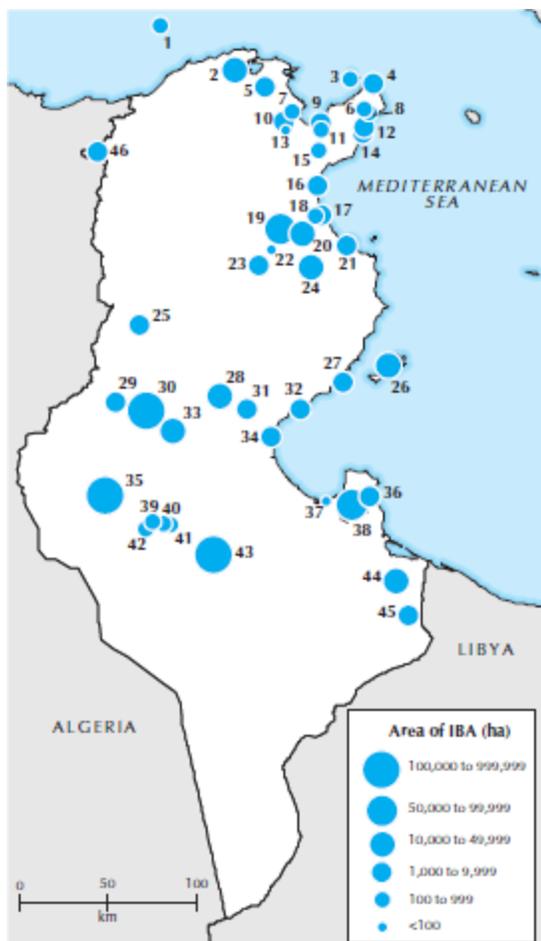
### 1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.









Governorate / KBA	KBA	Coordinates
Governorates of Tozeur, Kebili and Gabes	Chott El Jerid	33.790712, 8.437222
Governorate of Kebili	National Park of Jbil	33.020400, 9.102763
Governorate of Gafsa	Steppe of Gafsa	34.435382, 8.767995
	Garaet Douza	34.489997, 8.595855
	National Park of Bouhedma	34.489259, 9.477080
Governorate of Gabes	Sebkhet Ennoul	34.391501, 9.770949
	Sebkhet Sidi Mansour	34.359518, 9.333646

## 2. Stakeholders

**Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.**

**Citizen engagement** is at the core of the proposed project and follows the World Bank Group's policies and procedures stakeholder engagement (see Inset 1). Notably, representatives of beneficiaries and stakeholders are in accord with the project's Objective and have been involved in the design of the project's planned Activities, Outputs and Outcomes.

**INSET 1: CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT IN WORLD BANK PROJECTS**

Within the scope of WBG interventions, *citizen engagement* is defined as the two-way interaction between citizens and government or the private sector. The approach gives citizens a stake in decision-making in order to improve the intermediate and final development outcomes.

The approach to mainstreaming citizen engagement is guided by five principles: (i) it is results-focused, (ii) it involves engaging throughout the operational cycle, (iii) it seeks to strengthen country systems, (iv) it is context-specific, and (v) it is gradual.

Under the right conditions, citizen engagement can help governments achieve improved development results. Evidence also shows, however, that the outcomes of citizen engagement are highly context specific and sensitive to government and citizens' capacity and willingness to engage. Effective engagement is also affected by social, political, economic, environmental, cultural, geographic and other factors, such as gender dynamics.

All Investment Project Financing (IPF) operations financed with IBRD loans must meet three requirements:

**Project design must be citizen-oriented, i.e., having at least one mechanism to engage with beneficiaries in the specific context of the project;**

**Projects' results frameworks must include a beneficiary feedback indicator to monitor citizen engagement throughout project implementation; and**

**Projects must report on the beneficiary feedback indicator by the third year of implementation.**

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[Source: World Bank, *Strategic Framework for Mainstreaming Citizen Engagement*]

**Information regarding stakeholders who have been and will be engaged**

The anticipated direct beneficiaries of this operation will be a population of about 752,202 people (including 376,101 women and 376,101 men) of 126 historic oases (see Table 3) administrated by 29 Communes in the governorates of Gabes, Kebili, Tozeur and Gafsa. Other beneficiaries are also representatives of key national, regional and local institutions, as well as representatives from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Agricultural Development Groups (GDAs), and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) of the targeted Governorates. These beneficiaries will directly benefit from the activities of the project, in term of improvement of livelihoods, generation of revenues and creation of jobs (see Inset 6 of PAD Annexes).

The GEF funding will support the range of activities in the RF (see Annex 2) for a further 33 798 direct beneficiaries (16 899 women and 16 899 men).

**Description of consultations conducted during project development**

This project has been designed based on the lessons learned during implementation of two recently closed projects, which may be regarded as pilots for this project. Drawing on key lessons from these past projects, the proposed WAHA project operates a clear paradigm shift, by stepping beyond sectoral or sub-sectoral initiatives and considering more holistic and comprehensive approach for a sustainable and integrated oases landscapes development.

Consultations with various stakeholders have been conducted through the preparation of this project, including formal and informal consultations with; local associations of farmers; Non-governmental organizations (NGOS); Civil society organizations (CSOs); local administrations; regional and national administrations, and international donor agencies [*inter alia* the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ); the French Development Agency (AFD) and the US Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)]. Public consultations with stakeholders were held in conjunction with the preparation of safeguards instruments, in Tozeur and in Tunis. In Tozeur (May 18, 2019), forty participants representing the main stakeholders of the Governorate and included: local authorities, elected municipal officials, technical services; NGOS; CSO; associations of users and producers; tourist operators; consulting firms; and advertising agencies. In Tunis, consultations were held between 21 and 23 May 2019 with the participation of more than thirty participants. Prior to commencement of project activities, further consultations will be held in the governorates of Gabes, Gafsa and Kebili.

The pilot projects (mentioned above) were implemented in the same social and cultural context as the project area, regarding which the World Bank in Tunisia and the proposed Government of Tunisia Ministries have sound experience including through the successful implementation of the TOELP project (pilot to the WAHA project).

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

**How stakeholders will be engaged in the proposed activity, and means of engagement throughout the project cycle**

Throughout the project implementation, **the communication channels between citizens and authorities will be strengthened to give voices to beneficiaries and excluded groups** (women and youth). The project will adopt the integrated landscape management approach, which by definition involves long-term collaboration among different groups of land managers and other stakeholders to achieve the multiple objectives required from the landscape, such as agricultural production; provision of ecosystem services; protection of biodiversity; landscape beauty; identity and recreation value; and local livelihoods, human health and well-being.

**Component 3 (Gender-responsive project coordination, M&E and communication and knowledge management) will reach out to oases communities and other key stakeholders for the dissemination of pertinent information** about all aspects of the project. Under this component, the project's Communication Strategy will be formulated and adopted by local municipalities (*collectivités locales*). **These municipalities will be closely associated to and supported for the**

**design and implementation of their Local Development Plan (PDL)** (see Component 1) and local actors will receive all the necessary support to identify, design and implement promising sub-projects. The project will explicitly support the engagement of all stakeholders and beneficiaries through consultative processes and engagement in local-level planning to elaborate and adjust the approach, thus contributing to achieving project outcomes and sustainability. **Feedback mechanisms** will be developed early in project implementation, to ensure transparency, accountability and learning, as well as a continuous dialogue with local-level beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

#### **Roles and responsibilities in ensuring effective stakeholder engagement**

Effective stakeholders will be ensured and monitored at different levels:

At central level: the members of COPIL, of the PMU and the COGEP

At regional level; the Regional Council, the Regional Project Implementation Unit

At local level: the LDP Development Committee

**Select what role civil society will play in the project:**

**Consulted only;**

**Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;**

**Co-financier; Yes**

**Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;**

**Executor or co-executor; No**

**Other (Please explain) Yes**

**Civil society organizations (CSOs) have been involved in the project design and will be fully involved in the project throughout its implementation.** Key pre-existing groupings of land users who will be involved as beneficiaries (also contributing co-financing) include women-led groups, Agricultural Development Groups (GDAs) and Producers' Organizations (POs) and female producers. The project will work through these groups to develop local plans (Component 1), remove the identified constraints and barriers for adoption of SLMs / CSAs (Sub-component 2.1), to start/expand income-earning opportunities, including improving their knowledge of market/investment/job opportunities through targeted awareness and outreach activities, and also their access to inputs, services and financial resources through tailored technical assistance packages (business skills) (Sub-component 2.2).

The project is specifically designed to target women as beneficiaries will integrate a series of activities to support women entrepreneurs (MSMEs), women-led groups (CSOs, GDAs and POs) and female producers to identify, manage and benefit from subprojects and facilitate their access to matching

grants. On one hand, interventions will include women-focused awareness raising and outreach activities on market/investment opportunities, and targeted support and technical assistance packages to women entrepreneurs (MSMEs), women-led groups (CSOs, GDAs and POs) and female producers which will provide both hard and soft skills trainings such as business plan development, mentorship, network support for market access, leadership trainings etc. The screening process and eligibility criteria for grants and co-financing grants will include forms of positive discrimination for subprojects identified and managed by women and women's groups.

### 3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

**Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.**

#### **Gender Analysis, Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming and Sustainability Framework**

##### **A. Gender Analysis in Sustainable Oases Management, Tunisia**

Tunisia<sup>7</sup> exhibits the most progressive stance on women's rights in the Arab world. On the 2020 Global Gender Gap Index, (published in 2019), which measures gender equality for 153 countries, Tunisia, ranked 124<sup>th</sup>, is one of the best-performing country in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region - after the United Arab Emirates (120<sup>th</sup>) and Kuwait (122<sup>nd</sup>), but better than Algeria (132<sup>nd</sup>), Egypt 134<sup>th</sup>) and Morocco (143<sup>rd</sup>).

**Gender disparities have to be seen across regional imbalances between more developed coastal regions and hinterland regions lagging behind** (in the North-Center, West-Center and South parts of the country). In rural areas of these regions, 95% of women that live in households with another male primary decision-maker are disempowered (compared to 74% in the case of men). This is mainly due to women's very low economic empowerment, i.e. their low input in productive decision, limited control over resources (assets and credit) and very low control over the use of income.

**In the agriculture sector, where women constitute an important part of the labor force, their contributions to agricultural production and household food security tend to be invisible.** Men are considered to be the managers of family farms while women work mainly as family helpers or are engaged in agriculture related informal sector trading/basic processing activities partly due to their lack of sufficient knowledge of market/investment opportunities, limited business skills (including financial literacy) and poor access to financial resources. This is particularly true in the oasis, where women play a key role in the work required to grow crops at ground level (hoeing, weeding, harvesting, adaptation and processing of crops like groundnuts, henna, fodder and condiment and medicinal plants), but they are rarely involved in decision-making regarding marketing and sales of products.

**There are numerous factors that limit the role of women in rural areas**, such as the following: (i) women tend to engage more in non-paid farm work compared to men; (ii) female farmers compared to male ones have limited access to land and other resources such as access to credit, technology, climate services, social networks (iii) women face time constraints considering they often perform a double role (reproductive and productive role); (iv) female farmers use no or

simple equipment/tools and have a low adoption of technology; and (v) women are faced with limited opportunities for local value addition of the crops produced.

**Challenges facing female entrepreneurs affect their leadership and participation in agricultural enterprises.** Other constraints, besides low education, also place women at a disadvantage in the labor market. These include limited access to information on business regulations and training; social norms on how women should interact with male employees, business owners, and government officials. Female participation and mobility in the labor force are constrained by the socially acceptable behavior of women in Tunisia and even laws. For example, women are discouraged or prohibited by family members from traveling far from home (in both rural and urban environments). Jobs involving commuting, often alone, to the location of work, are considered as socially unacceptable and/or prohibited. Certain Tunisian laws restrict the type of work women participate in, the number of hours they work as well as require a woman's husband or father to approve of her job and hours worked. Within the MENA region, the Tunisian government offers the shortest amount of time for maternal leave for women (30 days).

**Government support for addressing gender challenges.** In Tunisia, the push for women's rights can be traced back to 1956, when a series of liberal laws called the Code of Personal Status were signed, that abolished polygamy and forced marriage, and enshrined legal protections for women in cases of divorce. The Tunisian *2014 Constitution* stipulates that the State is committed to protect women's established rights and ought to strengthen and develop them. Besides, article 20 clearly states that all male and female citizens have the same rights and duties and that they are equal without discrimination. In June 2016, the Tunisian Constitution was amended with a new element ensuring an even greater equality between its citizens and Article 49 establishes a better representation of women in local policies. In 2017, Tunisian Parliament adopted a law meant to eliminate violence against women, a law that combines prevention of violence, criminalization of offenders and assistance for victims. In 2019, the Tunisian government made it legal for Muslim women to marry non-Muslim men, and the Tunisian parliament passed an inheritance law requiring male and female heirs to receive equal inheritance shares.

**In conclusion:** Despite Tunisia's advancement in promoting gender equality and effective protection of women's rights, strong and persistent gender-based norms and attitudes undermine women's empowerment, especially in the economic sphere.

## **B. Implementation of gender mainstreaming in project<sup>8</sup>**

The project goals to gender equality priorities are aligned to those in the Tunisian national plans and strategies related to land, agriculture, forest and natural resource use management and governance.

Implementation of gender mainstreaming includes strengthening the gender expertise involved in the project. This will not only ensure empowerment of women if necessary, through positive discrimination during project implementation, but also the longevity of gender responsiveness following completion of the project. It is therefore vital that during implementation the project builds gender capacities among the project staff, partners and stakeholders.

The capacities to be built will focus on identifying gender needs, how to monitor gender parameters, how to report them, listing gender-responsive activities (inter alia gender analyses, monitoring and reporting of disaggregated data). The project will therefore ensure that senior staff

have information on how gender is mainstreamed in the project and how to ensure that all genders play their part during implementation.

The project will work towards ensuring gender-equal and meaningful participation in land and natural resource governance at the oasis landscape level through community and women-led participation, planning and leadership<sup>9</sup>. The work will include strengthening and enforcing legal protections for the land rights of women, also working to equalise the access, use and control over land, forests and natural resources through: better access to technology, services and resources; gender-responsive land and natural resource use and management.

### **Gender responsive monitoring and reporting**

Monitoring and reporting of gender-sensitive targets and indicators, both qualitative and quantitative are identified as key to the efficacy of these processes. The following gender-responsive indicators (see Table 1) will be used to monitor the impacts and progress in relation to the gender goals and targets and be integrated throughout the overall monitoring plan in order to identify good practices and lessons learned that promote gender equality and/or the empowerment of women, and incorporate remedial action that will redress any gender inequalities that arise during project implementation.

**Table 1: Gender Indicators**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Data type</b>	<b>Frequency of reporting</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>Participation</b>	<b>Number of men and women that participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, etc.)</b>	<b>Bi-annually</b>	<b>Project</b>
<b>Project benefits</b>	<b>Number of men and women that received benefits (e.g. employment, income generating activities, training, access to natural resources, land tenure or resource rights, equipment, leadership roles) from the project</b>	<b>Annual basis</b>	<b>Manager</b>
<b>Project planning considerations</b>	<b>Number of strategies, plans and policies derived from the project that include gender considerations</b>	<b>Annual basis</b>	<b>Project</b>

<b>Impacts of livelihoods</b>	<b>Share of women and men as direct beneficiaries of project</b>	<b>Annual basis</b>	<b>Manager</b>
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Measures which have been incorporated to ensure women's inclusion and participation in project planning and implementation (e.g. interviewing women separately from men to get their views; contracting CSOs /NGOs to specifically reach out to women; skill building training for women)</b>	<b>Annual basis</b>	<b>Project</b>
<b>Existing gender capacity</b>	<b>Existence of organisational gender focal point on staff. Availability of resource material on gender for staff</b>	<b>Annual basis</b>	<b>Manager</b>
<b>Gender conscious workplace</b>	<b>Promotion of gender balance at workplace with antidiscrimination and sexual harassment policies</b>	<b>Annual basis</b>	<b>Project</b>
<b>Gender balance of staff</b>	<b>Balanced gender at both management and staff levels and all levels of project</b>	<b>Annual basis</b>	<b>Manager</b>

**Table 2: Gender Action Plan**

<b>Sub-component</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Performance</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
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<p><b>Throughout project implementation</b></p>	<p><b>Ensure appropriate social inclusion in decision-making at all levels</b>  <b>Staff involved in the project should be provided with awareness on gender equality to improve their understanding of gender concerns and increase their capacity to implement the Project's gender action plan</b>  <b>Ensure that payment terms for all staff involved in the project are not discriminated based on their gender</b>  <b>The PMU is given responsibility of monitoring and reviewing the gender action plan targets regularly and produce progress reports.</b>  <b>Overcome the barriers for women (and men) to attend benefit from project activities (e.g. household responsibilities / chores, availability of childcare).</b></p>	<p><b>Number of women's groups and representatives consulted during project implementation and data collection</b>  <b>Target to have at least 1/3 of either gender representation in all decision-making forums</b>  <b>Conduct training on gender mainstreaming to all staff involved in the project</b>  <b>Number of women and men involved in project activities</b>  <b>The PMU will be staffed by qualified staff and who have knowledge in Transparency and Paris Agreement and whose composition should not have more than 2/3 of single gender.</b></p>	<p><b>UREP and PMU</b></p>
<p><b>Component 1: Improve the environmental and economic management of oasis landscapes, strengthening gender equality</b></p>			

<p><b>1.1: Promoting historical oases as part of the national heritage</b></p>	<p>Ensure women equally involved in designation of NHOS and certification system.          Ensure women are: not adversely affected also benefit at least as much as men - legally / institutionally / in terms of livelihood opportunities.          Women benefit from training modules on gender aspects of socioeconomic &amp; environmental dimensions of LD and BD</p>	<p>Number of women and men involved in project activities</p>	<p>UREP and PMU           MAC, MAHRP, MTA</p>
<p><b>1.2: Local planning</b></p>	<p>Project's support for the ongoing local planning framework to develop LDPs is fully gender-responsive and participatory ? including women's perspective and needs throughout</p>	<p>Number of women and men involved in project activities</p>	<p>UREP and PMU           CDS</p>
<p><b>Component 2: Promote gender-responsive sustainable investment in oasis landscapes</b></p>			

<p><b>2.1: Restoring oasis ecosystem functions</b></p>	<p><b>Women's groups (MSMEs, CSOs, GDAs and POs) and female producers supported to identify, manage and benefit from subprojects and facilitate their access to matching grants benefit from project supported sub-projects to address threats to the ecosystem functions of oasis landscapes ? particularly to support their food production / security / incomes through SLMs / CSA etc. to work towards LDN and restoration / conservation of wild and agro-BD Positive discrimination for subprojects identified and managed by women and women's groups</b></p>	<p><b>Number of women and men involved in project activities</b></p>	<p><b>UREP and PMU</b></p>
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<p><b>2.2: Supporting oases productive alliances and value chains</b></p>	<p><b>Agricultural and craft productive alliance and value chain activities particularly targeting and benefiting subprojects identified and managed by women (groups and individuals) by co-financing investments in agricultural and craft production , where they usually play a major role, but they are rarely involved in decision-making regarding marketing and sales of products.</b></p> <p><b>Project-supported activities to develop sustainable ecotourism pay particular attention to ensure that women particularly benefit from these job opportunities by supporting women-focused awareness and outreach activities on job opportunities and tailored support (trainings).</b></p>	<p><b>Number of women and men involved in project activities</b></p> <p><b>Women benefiting at least equally compared to men from project catalysed activities to support livelihoods (in terms of income)</b></p>	<p><b>UREP and PMU</b></p>
<p><b>Component 3: Gender-responsive project coordination, M&amp;E and communication and knowledge</b></p>			

<p><b>3.1: Project Coordination</b></p>	<p><b>Gender balance in UREP and PMU staff</b></p>	<p><b>Number of women and men involved in project coordination</b>  <b>The PMU will be staffed by qualified staff and who have knowledge in Transparency and Paris Agreement and whose composition should not have more than 2/3 of single gender.</b></p>	<p><b>UREP and PMU MALE</b></p>
<p><b>3.2: Project Monitoring and Evaluation</b></p>	<p><b>Gender balance in UREP and PMU M&amp;E staff</b>  <b>Project?s participatory monitoring activities ensure gender balance and full participation of women.</b>  <b>Project will collect information from and about both men and women, asking questions about specific individuals or groups and identify them by sex.</b></p>	<p><b>Number of women and men involved in project M&amp;E.</b>  <b>Those collecting and analysing the data need to understand gender roles and social dynamics, with questions adapted for context.</b></p>	<p><b>UREP and PMU</b></p>
<p><b>3.3: Communication and knowledge management</b></p>	<p><b>Project?s communication and knowledge-management initiatives accessible to all stakeholders, men and women (i.e. take into account education levels and prepare tailored materials).</b></p>	<p><b>Number of women and men involved in project activities</b>  <b>Number of project knowledge and communication materials produced tailored to specific educational levels (e.g. pictorial / dramas / radio programmes).</b></p>	<p><b>UREP and PMU</b></p>

**Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?**

Yes

**Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes**

**Improving women's participation and decision making Yes**

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes**

**Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

#### **4. Private sector engagement**

**Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.**

1. By drawing key lessons from past experiences, this proposed project operates a clear paradigm shift, by stepping beyond sectoral or sub-sectoral initiatives and considering more holistic and comprehensive approach for a sustainable and integrated oases landscapes development. In doing so, the project is fully in line with the government's new development vision, reform agenda and roadmaps placing strong emphasis on the importance of the private sector for boosting job creation and driving inclusive and sustainable economic growth, mainly: the Government's Economic and Social Roadmap for 2018-2020; the Five-Year Development Plan for 2016-2020; the five-year plan launched in 2016 (called TUNISIA 2020) which aims to achieve an annual growth rate of over 4 percent by 2020 mainly in rural development and the agriculture sector by: (i) improving Tunisian farmers income and modernization of farms; (ii) contributing to the agricultural GDP; (iii) strengthening agricultural production; (iv) creating jobs in rural areas; and (v) improving national food security.

A key area of the project will be in facilitating engagement with the private sector in support of gender-responsive sustainable investment in oasis landscapes. The project will facilitate communication and collaboration between country stakeholders (small producers, local promoters, formal agribusinesses/traders/input suppliers, buyers / supermarkets, public sector and civil society actors as appropriate) in order to support integration of local private sector actors within productive alliances and value-chains for sustainable products.

The project will also help the development of businesses through setting up of SMEs with improved business development index (disaggregated by value chains, also for tourism). SMEs will receive financial support from the project in agricultural, handy craft and ecotourism sectors, also other activities supported by the project under productive alliances or value chains approaches. Financial support will be assessed under gender dimension (MSMEs led by men or women). Under each

category, 3 other dimensions will be assessed: (1) Access to markets (business plans, certification of products and services) (2) Access to finance (increase in capital for investment through grants and access to loans) (3) Improved productive capacity (access to inputs and processing facilities for agricultural, handy craft, ecotourism and other activities supported by the project under productive alliances or value chains approaches). It is expected the project will support and improve the business development index of a maximum of 250 SMEs (from 5 to 10 SMEs for each of the 29 targeted communes).

A specific support will be provided to women entrepreneurs. This will integrate a series of activities to support women-led SMEs, women-led groups (CSOs, GDAs and POs) and female producers to identify, manage and benefit from subprojects and facilitate their access to matching grants. On one hand, interventions will include women-focused awareness raising and outreach activities on market/investment opportunities, and targeted support and technical assistance packages to women entrepreneurs (MSMEs), women-led groups (CSOs, GDAs and POs) and female producers which will provide both hard and soft skills trainings such as business plan development, mentorship, network support for market access, leadership trainings etc. The project will also consider childcare support while female beneficiaries are taking relevant trainings. On the other hand, screening process and eligibility criteria for grants and co-financing grants will include forms of positive discrimination for subprojects identified and managed by women and women's groups.

The project's work to catalyze the development of an oases product and by-product certification system (included in Tunisia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2018-2035), will be developed and implemented in close co-operation and agreement with oases crop and livestock keepers, local and national governments, also potentially the private sector (supermarkets) / consumers in Tunisia's cities.

The IBRD-supported project will directly address climate change mitigation related objectives involving the private sector, including: promoting innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs (supportive policies and strategies are fundamental to catalyze innovation and technology transfer for mitigation and enhance private sector investment) and fostering enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies.

Moreover, the new International Finance Corporation (IFC) project which, by aiming to increase competitiveness in the date sector in the country through demonstration and replication effects, will support the expansion plan of the private company ?Boujbel S.A VACPA? for (i) the diversification into dates juice concentrate, (ii) the upgrade of its processing and storage units, and (iii) providing working capital financing in order to increase the volume of dates sourced by 35% by 2025.

Finally, the Bank's support will also provide opportunities for establishing public-private partnerships to support oases-specific value chains development thanks to the Bank's convening power which allows to bring to the same discussion table producers, VC actors and PFIs including through existing platforms supported under other Bank-funded operations. This convening function will be pursued during project implementation and formalized through the establishment of appropriate Memoranda of Understanding and strengthening existing concertation mechanisms.

## 5. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

### Overall Project/Program Risk Classification\*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
<b>Medium/Moderate</b>			

#### Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

Environmental Risk Rating Moderate

Based on the PAD and the outputs of the ESMF, the Project is classified as Moderate Risk. The Project is not highly complex, its ES scale and impact is large to medium and the effects of the Project on areas of high value or sensitivity as the traditional oases are expected to be lower than High Risk Projects. The potential for indirect and cumulative impacts exist, but they are less severe and more readily avoidable or mitigated than for High or substantial Risk Projects. Even the impacts of sub activities to be funded by the project are expected to be positive, the specificity of Oases ecosystems make that some risks/impacts are identified mainly linked to Biodiversity degradation, soil quality degradation, water resources and ecosystem services in the oases if these activities are not implemented correctly. Mitigatory and/or compensatory measures may be designed more readily and be more reliable than those of High/substantial Risk Projects. It's also noted that the Project is being developed in a

legal/regulatory environment where there is uncertainty or conflict as to jurisdiction of competing agencies, and where the legislation or regulations do not adequately address the risks and impacts in these areas. However, the borrower has some experience in developing and implementing such type of project in a pilot area of 6 oases. The borrower capacity and experience managing a larger area and activities could be readily addressed through implementation support. The Environmental and Social institutional arrangement proposed from the central to the local level will be able to ensure environmental and social compliance during the project implementation.

Social Risk Rating Moderate

Project social risks are deemed moderate. The rationale of this classification is as follows. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to promote integrated development of oasis ecosystems in four governorates in Tunisia. Potential social risks and impacts related to the project may include, but not be limited to: land acquisition; poor management of labor in project units and among contractors, social exclusion of groups which are economically or socially vulnerable; restrictions in access to resources through the establishing management plans and control measures; and poor management of grievances and expectations. These risks will be oasis specific. Project activities will be confined within the boundaries of the oasis and will: a) employ the procurement of local contractors for civil works, there is a potential for a limited labor influx according to the RPF ; b) employ stakeholder engagement as the central mechanism for sub-project identification, preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and c) establish grievance redress mechanisms to strengthen project ownership and prevent potential conflicts between beneficiaries. Land acquisition is highly unlikely inducing involuntary resettlement is highly unlikely; only temporary land acquisition for civil works is expected. Likewise, restrictions in access to resources through the establishing management plans and control measures, both that oases have time-honored management plans and control measures based on traditional consultations and equal access to resources, and any planning of such activities will be subject to community consultations and decision making, to avoid restrictions to access. This assessment is based on information assembled from the Concept Note (CN), the RPF, the PAD and the OASIS pilot project implementation reports, including aide memoirs and the midterm review reports.

**Supporting Documents**

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
<b>ESRS_GEF_qer_22 November 2021</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>ESRS</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	

**ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).**

**Results Framework**

**COUNTRY: Tunisia**  
**TN-Sustainable Oasis Landscape Management Project**

**Project Development Objectives(s)**

Strengthen the integrated development of oasis landscapes in targeted governorates in Tunisia

**Project Development Objective Indicators**

RESULT\_FRAME\_TBL\_PDO

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	Intermediate Targets				End Target
			1	2	3	4	
<b>To strengthen the integrated management of oasis landscapes in targeted governorates in Tunisia</b>							
Land area under sustainable landscape management practices (CRI, Hectare(Ha))		0.00	1,000.00	5,000.00	12,000.00	20,000.00	25,000.00
SMEs receiving financing through the project (disaggregated by male/female-led SMEs) (Number)		0.00	10.00	50.00	150.00	200.00	250.00
Male-led SMEs receiving financing through the project (Number)		0.00	8.00	35.00	110.00	150.00	180.00
Female-led SMEs receiving financing through the project (Number)		0.00	2.00	15.00	40.00	50.00	70.00
Target beneficiaries with rating ?Satisfied? or above on project interventions (percentage) (Percentage)		0.00	5.00	25.00	50.00	65.00	65.00
Project Beneficiaries (disaggregated by IBRD and GEF and gender) (Number)		0.00					786,000.00
Project Beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender - IBRD) (Number)		0.00					746,202

RESULT\_FRAME\_TBL\_PDO

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	Intermediate Targets				End Target
			1	2	3	4	
Project Beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender - GEF) (Number)		0.00					39,798
Net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (CRI, Metric tons/year)		0.00					28,399.00
Land area under Integrated Landscape Development (Hectares)		0.00	1.000	2.000	3,000	4.000	5.000

PDO Table SPACE

**Intermediate Results Indicators by Components**

RESULT\_FRAME\_TBL\_I

O

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	Intermediate Targets				End Target
			1	2	3	4	
<b>Improving the environmental and economic management of oasis landscapes</b>							
Contractual specifications related to NHOS status elaborated (Yes/No)		No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oasis products certified (disaggregated by products types) (Number)		0.00	0.00	5.00	15.00	25.00	30.00
<b>Promote sustainable investment in oasis landscapes</b>							
Farmers reached with agricultural assets or services (CRI, Number)		0.00	0.00	100.00	300.00	500.00	600.00
Farmers reached with agricultural assets or services - Female (CRI, Number)		0.00	5.00	25.00	50.00	100.00	160.00
Farmers adopting improved agricultural technology (CRI, Number)		0.00	0.00	100.00	250.00	400.00	500.00

RESULT\_FRAME\_TBL\_1  
0

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	Intermediate Targets				End Target
			1	2	3	4	
Farmers adopting improved agricultural technology - Female (CRI, Number)		0.00	0.00	10.00	50.00	100.00	150.00
Farmers adopting improved agricultural technology - male (CRI, Number)		0.00	0.00	80.00	200.00	300.00	350.00
Beneficiaries of job-focused interventions (CRI, Number)		0.00	50.00	500.00	1,500.00	2,000.00	3,000.00
Beneficiaries of job-focused interventions - Female (CRI, Number)		0.00	100.00	300.00	500.00	600.00	1,000.00
Beneficiaries reached with financial services (CRI, Number)		0.00	0.00	50.00	120.00	180.00	220.00
Number of previously unbanked adults reached with transaction accounts (CRI, Number)		0.00	0.00	20.00	50.00	80.00	100.00
Number of SMEs with a loan or line of credit (CRI, Number)		0.00	0.00	20.00	70.00	100.00	120.00
Women benefiting from sub-projects concerning agricultural and craft value chains (Number)		0.00	100.00	250.00	400.00	600.00	700.00
SMEs benefiting from sub-projects concerning ecotourism value chain (Number)		0.00	0.00	10.00	30.00	50.00	50.00
<b>Project Coordination, M&amp;E and Communication</b>							
PIUs fulfilling agreed roles and responsibilities (Yes/No)		No					Yes
Shared Knowledge Products on Best Practices for Oasis Management (Number)		0.00					5.00

RESULT\_FRAME\_TBL\_1

0

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	Intermediate Targets				End Target
			1	2	3	4	
Functioning M&E system (Yes/No)		No					Yes

IO Table SPACE

UL Table SPACE

**ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).**

**Response Matrix to GEF Secretariat comments at PIF stage and QER, STAP comments and Council Members at PIF stage**

<b>GEF Secretariat comments at PIF stage</b>	
<b>Comments from April 13, 2020</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators?</b>	

<p>Thanks. The information related to the KBAs, the natural habitats, the two national parks, and the associated global important biodiversity helps. It is recommended later at CEO endorsement to improve the causal-effect reasoning to well understand which activities will be positive for which global important biodiversity. For instance, we take the point that climate smart agriculture has multiple benefits for soil, water, vegetation cover, yields, and then incomes for the local communities, but you did not say which Biodiversity of Global Importance will benefit from CSA.</p> <p>We can take that the improvement of mixed landscapes of oases composed of traditional palm tree agroforestry parklands and wetlands is very important for migratory and breeding birds, including globally important bird species.</p> <p>We understand that the oasis certification process is in application of the 2018-2035 NBSAP.</p> <p>Please, take note that it is not the removal of Invasive and Alien Species which is eligible under BD1.1 on mainstreaming, but the removal of ANY bush encroachment that threatens the mixed landscapes of traditional palm trees and wetlands - these mixed landscapes in the KBAs being important for a global important biodiversity, notably migratory and breeding bird species. To be developed at CEO endorsement.</p>	<p>Thanks a lot for the comment which has been taken into account in the project document design. It has been made clear that the activities will benefit to preserve the oases which are important natural habitats for migratory and breeding birds. Moreover, it has been confirmed that in addition to actions aiming at removing invasive and alien species, the removal of bush encroachment threatening the mixed landscapes of traditional palm trees and wetlands will be done.</p>
<p><b>4. Is the project/program aligned with focal area and/or Impact Program strategies?</b></p>	
<p>Addressed from a LD point of view.</p> <p>From a BD point of view, the GEF reasoning has been improved and we can find a list and maps of important Areas for a Global Important Biodiversity, including KBAs, IBAs, and national parks. We understand that the GEF activities will focus on these KBAs (and to produce practices and knowledge that will replicated under the IBRD cofinancing).</p> <p>At CEO endorsement, this causal-effect relationships should be improved to well understand what kind of activities will benefit for which Global Important Biodiversity, and where.</p>	<p>Thanks a lot for the very important comment which has been addressed in providing additional information in the project document, annex to the Project Information Document (See file: 3.1_Project Information Document_PID_P169955_11 January 2022.docx).</p> <p>In particular we included additional explanations about the concerned related to the importance to maintien agro-biodiversity and key crops such as millet, sorghum, tender wheat and barley and other specific genetic resources to Tunisia as well as the loss of oases and its potential negative impact on migratory birds - see paragraph related to Global Environmental problems to be addressed.</p> <p>A summary of endangered wild and agro-biodiversity which project actions aim to protect in and around oases is provided in the Inset 1. Details are provided in Annexes to the project document.</p>
<p><b>5. Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?</b></p>	

<p>At CEO endorsement, this causal-effect relationships should be improved to well understand what kind of activities will benefit for which Global Important Biodiversity, and where.</p>	<p>See above.</p>
<p><b>Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?</b></p>	
<p>A preliminary list of risks is available. At CEO endorsement, please check then GEF's updated Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards (SD/PL/03).</p>	<p>The comment has been fully taken into consideration and it has been confirmed that the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) of the World Bank, issued in 2018, with its 10 standards (ESS) is fully aligned and comply with the standards of the GEF's updated Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards. The risks rating before and after mitigation measures is provided.</p>
<p><b>Additional recommendations to be considered by Agency at the time of CEO endorsement/approval.</b></p>	

Improve the causal-effect reasoning to well justify which activities will benefit to which biodiversity of international importance, and  
 Confirm the core indicators;  
 Confirm the risk assessment, the mitigation measures, and the safeguards.

Thanks a lot for the final comments.  
 All requested information have been refined or added as follows:  
 The causal-effect reasoning has been strengthened to underline how the activities will benefit to agro-biodiversity including key crops and wildlife in particular migratory birds (see above response).

The core indicators have been confirmed and the project focuses on 25,000 ha of areas, out of protected areas, under better management for Biodiversity (5,000 ha) - to be monitored through the Core Indicator 4.1. and Sustainable Land Management (20,000 ha) - to be monitored through the Core Indicator 4.3.

As part of the M&E system, the project will test LDN tools in development like Tools4LDN integrating Trends.Earth, WOCAT database and LandPKS for instance (tools being developed with the support of the GEF among others).

The project will also harness the potential of disruptive digital technologies to take advantage of the opportunities they offer. Stakeholders will be supported to fully understand the potential of breakthrough technologies and consistently apply them.

The risk assessment and mitigation measures have been confirmed by the E&S safeguards team of the World Bank and are in line with the relevant Environmental and Social Standards of the ESF. Risks rating are provided before and after mitigation measures. Moreover, it is worth mentioning that to mitigate social and environmental risks, safeguards instruments have been established by MALE through the very successful TOELP project and the planned mitigation measures will be implemented accordingly allowing to notably reduce the various risks (see risks rating).

<b>GEF Secretariat comments at QER Stage</b>	
<b>Comments from October 19, 2021</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>1) Global Environmental Benefits (GEB): Have GEB related to the Biodiversity and the Land Degradation Focal Areas been adequately incorporated in the project design to justify GEF incremental funding?</b>	

<p>Improve the causal-effect reasoning to well justify which activities will benefit to which biodiversity of international importance, and where</p>	<p>Thank you. This aspect of the PAD / Annex to the PID ? Project Document has been further strengthened to depict the causal-effect reasoning to better informed which activities will be selected under biodiversity of international importance.</p>
<p><b>2) M&amp;E: Is the M&amp;E framework, including results framework sound and does it sufficiently comply with the GEF requirements?</b></p>	
<p>Confirm the core indicators</p>	<p>To complement the above response to GEF Secretariat's comments at PIF stage, we confirm the following core indicators as follows:  Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas): 25,000 hectares comprising:  Indicator 4.1. Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity = 5,000 hectares  Indicator 4.3: Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems = 20,000 hectares</p>
<p><b>4) Risks: Are the risks and related mitigation measures appropriately reflected?</b></p>	

Confirm the risk assessment, the mitigation measures, and the safeguards.

To complement the above response to GEF Secretariat's comments at PIF stage, the risk assessment of this project was done under the risk mitigation principle of avoid, minimize, mitigate and compensate for residual adverse impacts in a manner that is consistent with international best industry practices. The risk assessment and the related mitigation measures will be reconsidered prior to submission of final package.

As described in the PAD / Annex to the PID ? Project Document, the **Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) applicable to the Project are as follows:**

4 **ESS1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts.** This standard, which applies to all projects funded by the Bank through Investment Project Financing, is intended to identify, assess and manage the environmental and social risks and effects of the project in a manner consistent with the overall project.

4 **ESS2: Labor and Working Conditions,** which aims, among others, to promote the fair treatment, non-discrimination and equal opportunity of project workers, to protect project workers, including vulnerable workers such as women, persons with disabilities and children).

4 **ESS3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management,** which aims, among others, to promote the sustainable use of resources, including energy, water and raw materials; and avoid or minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment by avoiding

<b>Additional comments</b>	
<p>About biodiversity, we invite the project team to build on the exchanges we had at PIF review. See PIF review, part I, 6) on core indicators, Part II, 4) alignment with focal area strategies, and the last cell on ?Additional Recommendations?. The simple mention of agrobiodiversity for instance does not make the activities eligible under the GEF7 BD strategy (the GEF BD strategy is focused on the conservation of Crop Wild Relatives, and especially 14 major global food crops and the Vavilov centers of diversity for plant genetic resources <a href="https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/GEF_Biodiversity_Strategy_2018_v2.pdf">https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/GEF_Biodiversity_Strategy_2018_v2.pdf</a>). The main elements of the incremental reasoning were discussed at PIF level: for instance, the use of GEF resources on activities in or near these KBAs is acceptable to produce knowledge and practices that will be replicated under the IBRD cofinancing. Land-use planning activities can be justified to the benefit of Key-Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and management/restoration of natural habitats for migratory or breeding species of global importance. It was expected a detail of these KBAs and this biodiversity of global importance at CEO endorsement to justify the potential benefit for a global important biodiversity. See the PIF review for further details.</p>	<p>The task team confirms that details of the KBAs and the biodiversity of global importance have been provided at CEO endorsement to justify the potential benefit for a global important biodiversity.</p> <p>See above responses related to causal-effect reasoning in the table related to GEF Secretariat's comments at both PIF and QER stages.</p>
<p>In the Request for CEO endorsement, table C on co-financing: there are five lines of co-financing with a WB's loan, and a mix of in-kind and cash co-financing. Please, remind that evidences will be requested at CEO endorsement for each line of co-financing.</p>	<p>As per guidance, the table C has been revised to only include co-financing for which evidences can be provided. Therefore, the table C only includes the WB's loan co-financing and a co-financing letter in support of the IBRD-GEF-Blended Tunisia Sustainable Oasis Landscape Management Project has been signed by Lia Sieghart, Practice Manager, and added to the CEO endorsement package.</p>
<p>The key core indicators for this project (4.1- areas of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity and 4.3 on Sustainable Land Management in production systems) are expressed in hectare. We wonder if the authorities in charge or the project are equipped with the appropriate geographical tools to report on these indicators (mapping, GIS?).</p>	<p>As part of the M&amp;E system, the project will test LDN tools in development like Tools4LDN integrating Trends.Earth, WOCAT database and LandPKS for instance (tools being developed with the support of the GEF among others). As these tools are free web-based, online, tools, it will allow the authorities in charge or the project to report on these indicators (mapping, GIS?).</p>

You added the core indicator 6.1 to reflect the carbon sequestered or the emissions avoided from the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector. At CEO endorsement, an annex will be expected, detailing the reasoning, the method used, and the values. Thanks.

In order to calculate the core indicator 6.1 *Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector*, the task team used the Ex-ACT tool developed by FAO (see file: 14.1\_Tunisia\_Sustainable Oasis Landscape Mgt Project\_EX-ACT\_V9.2\_22 November 2021.xlsm) and detailed the reasoning, the method used, and the values in the Annex X: Greenhouse Gas Accounting (see file: 14.2\_P169955\_Tunisia\_GEF\_GHG accounting\_22 November 2021.docx).

<b>STAP comments and guidance</b>	
<b>STAP Overall Assessment and Rating</b>	

Minor issues to be considered during project design STAP acknowledges the World Bank's project 'Oasis Landscape Sustainable Management'. STAP welcomes the project's vision of restoring degraded lands (using sustainable and management practices), safeguarding biodiversity of the oasis of Tunisia, and recognizing that Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) interventions can catalyze the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

STAP also welcomes the strong focus on gender responsive interventions, on communication and knowledge management, and the 'systems' vision that improving the environmental and economic management of oasis landscapes, will strengthen gender equality. To this end, STAP strongly recommends the project team to adopt the LDN Scientific Conceptual Framework and the LDN guidelines for GEF projects (references are provided at the end of this document). Given that this will be the first project to be implemented in Tunisia to translate LDN targets (being set up) into concrete actions on the ground, STAP recommends the use of the LDN guidelines recently published by STAP, as well as UNCCD-SPI reports on lessons and knowledge of applying LDN (provided at the end of this document). STAP strongly recommends the inclusion of the three LDN core indicators (related also to SDG indicator 15.3.1) along with complementary national and subnational data (quantitative and qualitative) to aid with interpretation and fill gaps on ecosystem services not fully tracked by the core indicators. to assist with monitoring. The current project development objective indicators, and intermediate results indicators are not enough to track success in the implementation of LDN at the country level.

Below, STAP describes its guidance.

The World Bank used the LDN checklist (<https://knowledge.unccd.int/knowledge-products-and-pillars/access-capacity-policy-support-technology-tools/checklist-land> and <https://www.thegef.org/documents/checklist-land-degradation-neutrality-transformative-projects-and-programmes-draft>) to refine the project appraisal document (PAD), the PAD ANNEXES as well as the PID and Annex to the PID 'Project Document in order to ensure that the project will match with the fundamental elements to LDN including landscape approach, applying the LDN response hierarchy, using the 3 LDN sub-indicators (see Component 3 - "Baseline SMART indicators will be developed in line with the LDP under Component 1, also including key LDN performance indicators: SDG 15.3.1 indicators on land cover, net primary productivity (NPP), and soil organic carbon (SOC) stock." and fully mainstreaming gender issue in the project (from design to implementation) based on the guidance provided in the Manual for gender mainstreaming into LDN transformative projects and programmes (UN WOMEN, GM/UNCCD and IUCN, 2019).

The World Bank confirms that the key documentation to prepare the PAD / Annex to the PID 'Project Document has been extensively used including the LDN Scientific Conceptual Framework and the LDN guidelines for GEF projects as well as the Manual for gender mainstreaming into LDN transformative projects and programmes and other UNCCD SPI relevant documents (<https://knowledge.unccd.int/science-policy-interface/spi-publications>) such as the UNCCD-SPI technical report 'Realising the Carbon Benefits of Sustainable Land Management Practices: Guidelines for Estimation of Soil Organic Carbon in the Context of Land Degradation'.

**Part I: Project Information**

**B. Indicative Project Description Summary**

**Outcomes**

<p>The PIF lacks specificity on how the global environmental benefits have been estimated. The narrative provided makes the correct link between achieving LDN at country level while also addressing biodiversity loss through the adoption of LDN based intervention. The PIF then reflects on the interlinkages between LDN achievement and the Aichi Targets (CBD), the Paris Agreement and the UNCCD Strategic Framework 2018-2030</p> <p>The Outcomes of page 4 could be used in developing a Theory of Change for this project where the project team maps outcomes, against planned outputs, activities and processes and in doing so, also identify stakeholders that need to be engaged in the process to be truly participatory. STAP recommends using the ToC Premier (see list of bibliography at the end of this document).</p>	<p>The World Bank confirms that the ToC primer has been used to refine and improve the Theory of Change figure provided at PCN (PIF) stage according to STAP guidance.</p> <p>The Theory of Change has been considerably developed and improved for CEO endorsement to better present the problems, the barriers for effective action, the components, activities/outputs intermediate and medium-term outcomes as well as long-term states, impacts and co-benefits including on the GEBs.</p>
<p><b>Part II: Project justification</b></p>	
<p><b>1. Project description. Briefly describe:</b>  <b>1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)</b></p>	
<p>Yes, the PIF describes the barriers. STAP recommends analyzing the barriers, and enablers, to achieving short-term outcomes, and validating these barriers/enablers in a theory of change. STAP's theory of change primer may be helpful: <a href="https://www.stapef.org/theory-change-primer">https://www.stapef.org/theory-change-primer</a></p>	<p>As mentioned above, the Theory of Change has been considerably developed and improved for CEO endorsement to better present the problems, the barriers for effective action, the components, activities/outputs intermediate and medium-term outcomes as well as long-term states, impacts and co-benefits including on the GEBs.</p>
<p><b>2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects</b></p>	

Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits?  
Partly, see comments on LDN indicators.

As described in the PCN (PIF stage) and included in the Project Document (PAD and Annex to the PID) - Component 3, Sub-component 3.2: Project Monitoring and Evaluation, M&E and learning processes includes independent evaluation and also participatory monitoring by beneficiaries and stakeholders to support participation and enable adaptive, results-based project management from design to project closure. Baseline SMART indicators will be developed in line with the Local Development Plan under Component 1, also including key LDN performance indicators: SDG 15.3.1 indicators on land cover, net primary productivity (NPP), and soil organic carbon (SOC) stock.

Moreover, it is described in the PAD and Annex to the PID - Component 3, Subcomponent 3.1: Project Coordination - that "a monitoring system consistent Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, particularly SDG 15.3 and its indicator 15.3.1 on LDN, while managing the project's special accounts; prepare consolidated annual work programs and budgets; coordinate procurement and financial management reporting; and coordinate and consolidate periodic progress reports for the project activities. The participation of all relevant stakeholders involved in the regular monitoring and validation of LDN status reporting as well as project implementation outcomes, with a particular attention to gender, will be ensured."

In addition, as per standard World Bank procedures, a detailed Gender Gap Assessment has been conducted during project development, and a Gender Action Plan developed, with systematic integration of recommendations into project activities and collection of gender-disaggregated monitoring data for relevant indicators.

The World Bank made it crystal clear through outputs description as follows:  
Outcome 3.2. Project M&E system operating effectively  
Output 3.2.1. Monitoring and evaluation system established, supporting adaptive project management (including formal GEF tracking, GEF7 Core indicators, specific LDN and Biodiversity indicators and participatory elements).

Finally, the World Bank results framework presents all other indicators needed to monitor Project Development Objective Indicators and Intermediate Results Indicators by Components (see Results Framework in the Annex to the PID ? Project document. See file 3.2\_P169955\_PID\_ANNEX\_PROJECT DOCUMENT\_11 January 2022.docx).

<p>Is the baseline sufficiently robust to support the incremental (additional cost) reasoning for the project? See above</p>	<p>See above answers</p>
<p>Are the multiple baseline analyses presented (supported by data and references), and the multiple benefits specified, including the proposed indicators. Yes, benefits are specified on land restoration, biodiversity conservation. Indicators for each benefit are identified. STAP suggest the adoption of the 3 core global indicators of the LDN framework AND the design and implementation of complementary national and subnational indicators, for locally-relevant ecosystem services that are not covered by SOC, NPP or landcover change (see the LDN Scientific Conceptual Framework, pgs 100-101 cited at the end of this document).</p>	<p>As mentioned above, the World Bank fully considered using the SDG 15.3.1 indicators on land cover, net primary productivity (NPP), and soil organic carbon (SOC) stock (see relevant sections in the PAD / Annex to the PID ? Project Document: Relevance to Higher Level Objectives, and Component 3, Sub-component 3.2: Project Monitoring and Evaluation).</p> <p>The World Bank confirms as well that the project design fully considered the Principles related to monitoring given in the LDN SCF.</p>
<p><b>2. Stakeholders.</b></p>	
<p>The document states that this project supports the engagement of stakeholders and beneficiaries through consultative processes, engagement in local-level planning, and feedback mechanisms to elaborate and adjust the integrated water and land management approach, as well as access to economic opportunities, thus contributing to achieving project outcomes and sustainability. STAP recommends the team to tailor participatory methods to the social and cultural context of the project area, and to use tools and processes that suit that context. STAP encourages that feedback and suggestions of stakeholders are included in the design and execution of activities and that the full ladder of public participation is applied.</p>	<p>The World Bank welcomes recommendations of the STAP about the engagement of stakeholders and beneficiaries using participatory approaches adapted to the specific social and cultural context of oases, as well the integration of feedback and suggestions of stakeholders / beneficiaries in the design and implementation of activities.</p> <p>As citizen / stakeholder engagement is at the core of the proposed project and follows the World Bank Group's policies and procedures stakeholder engagement. All Investment Project Financing (IPF) operations financed with IBRD loans must meet three requirements: ? project design must be citizen-oriented, i.e., having at least one mechanism to engage with beneficiaries in the specific context of the project; ? projects? results frameworks must include a beneficiary feedback indicator to monitor citizen engagement throughout project implementation; and ? projects must report on the beneficiary feedback indicator by the third year of implementation.</p> <p>All relevant information has been provided for CEO endorsement in the GEF7 WB Appraisal stage data sheet.</p>
<p>The project document covers in different sections the initial thinking about stakeholders? roles. It is expected that the final project document reflects a more integrated vision on how the combined roles of these stakeholders will contribute to achieving the global environmental outcomes, and to sharing the new knowledge and lessons to be gained through this project implementation.</p>	<p>The PAD / Annex to the PID ? Project Document and GEF7 WB Appraisal stage data sheet for CEO endorsement reflects in detail the role of the different stakeholders including through citizen engagement, gender action plan, private sector involvement and how the communication and knowledge management will be done to ensure sharing lessons learned and adaptive management.</p>
<p><b>3. Gender Equality and Women?s Empowerment.</b></p>	

<p>The project has a strong emphasis on women empowerment, though such successful outcome requires well planned processes and activities that the PIF does not describe. STAP strongly recommends the team to familiarize with recent literature (see end of this document) on gender and the implementation of LDN interventions.</p> <p>UN WOMEN, GLOBAL MECHANISM OF THE UNCCD AND IUCN (2019). A Manual for Gender-Responsive Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes  <a href="http://catalogue.unccd.int/1223_Gender_Manual.pdf">http://catalogue.unccd.int/1223_Gender_Manual.pdf</a></p> <p>Global Mechanism of the UNCCD. 2019. Land Degradation Neutrality Interventions to Foster Gender Equality. Bonn, Germany  <a href="http://catalogue.unccd.int/1222_UNCCD_gender_briefing_note.pdf">http://catalogue.unccd.int/1222_UNCCD_gender_briefing_note.pdf</a></p>	<p>This comment has been fully considered in preparing the PAD and related ANNEXES as well as in the Annex to the PID ? Project Document. All relevant documentation about gender mainstreaming in the project has been considered and will be extensively used throughout the project implementation including guidance provided in: UN WOMEN, GLOBAL MECHANISM OF THE UNCCD AND IUCN (2019). A Manual for Gender-Responsive Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes  <a href="http://catalogue.unccd.int/1223_Gender_Manual.pdf">http://catalogue.unccd.int/1223_Gender_Manual.pdf</a> and Global Mechanism of the UNCCD. 2019. Land Degradation Neutrality Interventions to Foster Gender Equality. Bonn, Germany  <a href="http://catalogue.unccd.int/1222_UNCCD_gender_briefing_note.pdf">http://catalogue.unccd.int/1222_UNCCD_gender_briefing_note.pdf</a></p>
<p>Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?  Explained in the table of risks and other sections of the document</p>	<p>The risk related to ensuring gender equality is fully considered in the table of risks and mitigating measures proposed in section VI - Key risks in the PAD and in the annex to the PID ? Project Document.</p> <p>The Gender Analysis and Sustainability Framework has been done to close gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; improve women?s participation and decision making; and generate socio-economic benefits plus services for women.</p> <p>The project's results framework includes gender-sensitive and disaggregated indicators.</p>
<p><b>5. Risks. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design</b></p>	

<p>The section of risks is very thorough and valid (pg 72). STAP appreciates that when developing the final project attention is given to the feasibility, effectiveness, tradeoffs, and co-benefits of the proposed climate risk management options, and its alignment with project objectives and expected outcomes.</p> <p>Furthermore, the team is encouraged to evaluate the possibility that the proposed interventions increase vulnerability to climate risks or lead to maladaptation. Measures for preventing these outcomes are encouraged. STAP also recommends that those risks highlighted as substantial (political risk and governance, sector strategy and policy, decentralization, civil society, environment, climate change and fiduciary) be considered in developing the Theory of Change (how will they impact the project outcomes).</p> <p>Of concern to STAP is the proper addressing of Project Affected People (PAPs) in terms of physical relocation, land acquisition or economic displacement (i.e., income, livelihoods or businesses). The documents ascertain that ?forms of physical displacement are unlikely, but some forms of economic displacement cannot be excluded (with loss of land, assets or more or less temporary access to these assets, which notably would give rise to a loss of income or other means of subsistence). STAP recommends that LDN interventions are developed avoiding these risks.</p>	<p>All recommendations have been taken into account in the PAD / Annex to the PID ? Project Document:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the table of risk has been improved to include the risk to increase vulnerability to climate risks or lead to maladaptation in relation with the proposed interventions. Measures for preventing these outcomes have been defined.</li> <li>2. the risks highlighted as substantial (political risk and governance, sector strategy and policy, decentralization, civil society and gender equality, environment, climate change and fiduciary) have been considered in developing the Theory of Change (how will they impact the project outcomes).</li> <li>3. LDN interventions have been developed to avoid and reduced to a minimum the risks related to economic displacement under IBRD interventions and the GEF-funded LDN interventions, by their nature, will avoid these risks as mentioned in the PAD / Annex to the PID ? Project Document.</li> </ol>
<p><b>8. Knowledge management. Outline the ?Knowledge Management Approach? for the project, and how it will contribute to the project?s overall impact, including plans to learn from relevant projects, initiatives and evaluations.</b></p>	
<p>The project aims to develop a gender-responsive communication and knowledge management. Some metrics are vaguely included (e.g. Gender-responsive communication and knowledge management system on LD). STAP recommends suitable metrics be developed for the final project.</p>	<p>This comment has been fully considered in the PAD / Annex to the PID ? Project Document and the results framework already include gender disaggregated indicators focused on SLM interventions, access to services, etc.</p> <p>Moreover, the Gender Gap Analysis and Gender Action Plan (Table 2: Gender Action Plan in the GEF7 WB Appraisal stage data sheet) propose suitable performance indicator metrics including gender-responsive indicators on communication and knowledge management. Please see also the separate ANNEX H - GEF WAHA Knowledge Management Strategy 10 02 2021 for additional details.</p>

<p>STAP could not find specific plans on HOW results, lessons and experiences will be shared. STAP strongly encourages to share lessons and results with the UNCCD Knowledge Hub on LDN and Drought.</p>	<p>The World Bank acknowledges the GEF STAP for the relevant suggestion.</p> <p>The World Bank confirmed in the PAD / Annex to the PID ? Project Document that the World Bank will liaise with UNCCD to support outreach and knowledge sharing with the broader UNCCD constituency, through its knowledge hub, website and social media ; information that could contribute to reporting on lessons learned about LDN implementation (as per Decision 13/COP14 ? paragraph 12). In addition, best practices will be shared through the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) platform, which facilitates global sharing of information on sustainable land use practice.</p> <p>It has been also included in the separate Annex H - GEF WAHA Knowledge Management Strategy.</p>
<p><b>List of bibliography STAP recommends to be considered in the design of the project</b></p>	<p>All references have been used and referred to in the PAD, PAD Annexes, PID and Annex to the PID ? Project Document and GEF data sheet as appropriate. A specific description of the relevant documentation has been added in the GEF&amp; WB Appraisal Data Sheet:</p> <p>"In preparing the PAD, all relevant documentation has been used including among other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected Knowledge and Communication Products</li> <li>Land Degradation Neutrality. Why it matters, how it's done (YouTube video)</li> <li>Checklist for Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes</li> <li>LDN TPP: Operational Guidance for Country Support</li> <li>A Manual for Gender-Responsive LDN TPP</li> <li>Land Degradation Neutrality interventions to foster gender equality. Briefing note.</li> <li>Land Degradation, Poverty and Inequality</li> <li>Land Degradation Neutrality for Biodiversity Conservation: How healthy land safeguards nature. Technical Report</li> <li>Land Degradation Neutrality for Biodiversity Conservation. Briefing note</li> <li>Land Degradation Neutrality for Water Security and Combatting Drought. Briefing Note</li> <li>The Science Behind LDN ? UNCCD Science-Policy Interface</li> <li>Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality</li> <li>Creating an Enabling Environment for Land Degradation Neutrality</li> </ul> <p>And all SPI publications at:  <a href="https://knowledge.unccd.int/science-policy-interface/spi-publications">https://knowledge.unccd.int/science-policy-interface/spi-publications</a>"</p>
<p><b>STAP advisory response</b></p>	

<p><b>1. Concur</b> STAP acknowledges that on scientific or technical grounds the concept has merit. The proponent is invited to approach STAP for advice at any time during the development of the project brief prior to submission for CEO endorsement.</p>	<p>The World Bank welcomes the support provided by the GEF STAP through the comments provided at PIF / PCN stage and would like to bring to STAP attention that the PAD / Annex to the PID ? Project Document has been developed with the support of the LDN team of the Global Mechanism of UNCCD to ensure fully compliance with the LDN SCF and the LDN checklist as well as relevant documentation including gender mainstreaming into LDN projects.</p>
<p><b>2. Minor issues to be considered during project design</b></p>	
<p>(i) Open a dialogue with STAP regarding the technical and/or scientific issues raised;</p>	<p>Same comment as above: The World Bank welcomes the support provided by the GEF STAP through the comments provided at PIF / PCN stage and would like to bring to STAP attention that the PAD / Annex to the PID ? Project Document has been developed with the support of the LDN team of the Global Mechanism of UNCCD to ensure fully compliance with the LDN SCF and the LDN checklist as well as relevant documentation including gender mainstreaming into LDN projects.</p>
<p>(ii) Set a review point at an early stage during project development, and possibly agreeing to terms of reference for an independent expert to be appointed to conduct this review.</p>	<p>The World Bank reached out to the LDN team of the Global Mechanism of UNCCD to ensure fully compliance with the LDN SCF and the LDN checklist as well as relevant documentation including gender mainstreaming into LDN projects.</p>
<p>The proponent should provide a report of the action agreed and taken, at the time of submission of the full project brief for CEO endorsement.</p>	<p>A short report will be prepared by the team.</p>
<p><b>3. Major issues to be considered during project design</b></p>	
<p>(i) Open a dialogue with STAP regarding the technical and/or scientific issues raised; (ii) Set a review point at an early stage during project development including an independent expert as required. The proponent should provide a report of the action agreed and taken, at the time of submission of the full project brief for CEO endorsement.</p>	<p>Same comment as above: The World Bank welcomes the support provided by the GEF STAP through the comments provided at PIF / PCN stage and would like to bring to STAP attention that the PAD / Annex to the PID ? Project Document has been developed with the support of the LDN team of the Global Mechanism of UNCCD to ensure fully compliance with the LDN SCF and the LDN checklist as well as relevant documentation including gender mainstreaming into LDN projects.</p>

<p><b>Council members? comments</b></p>	
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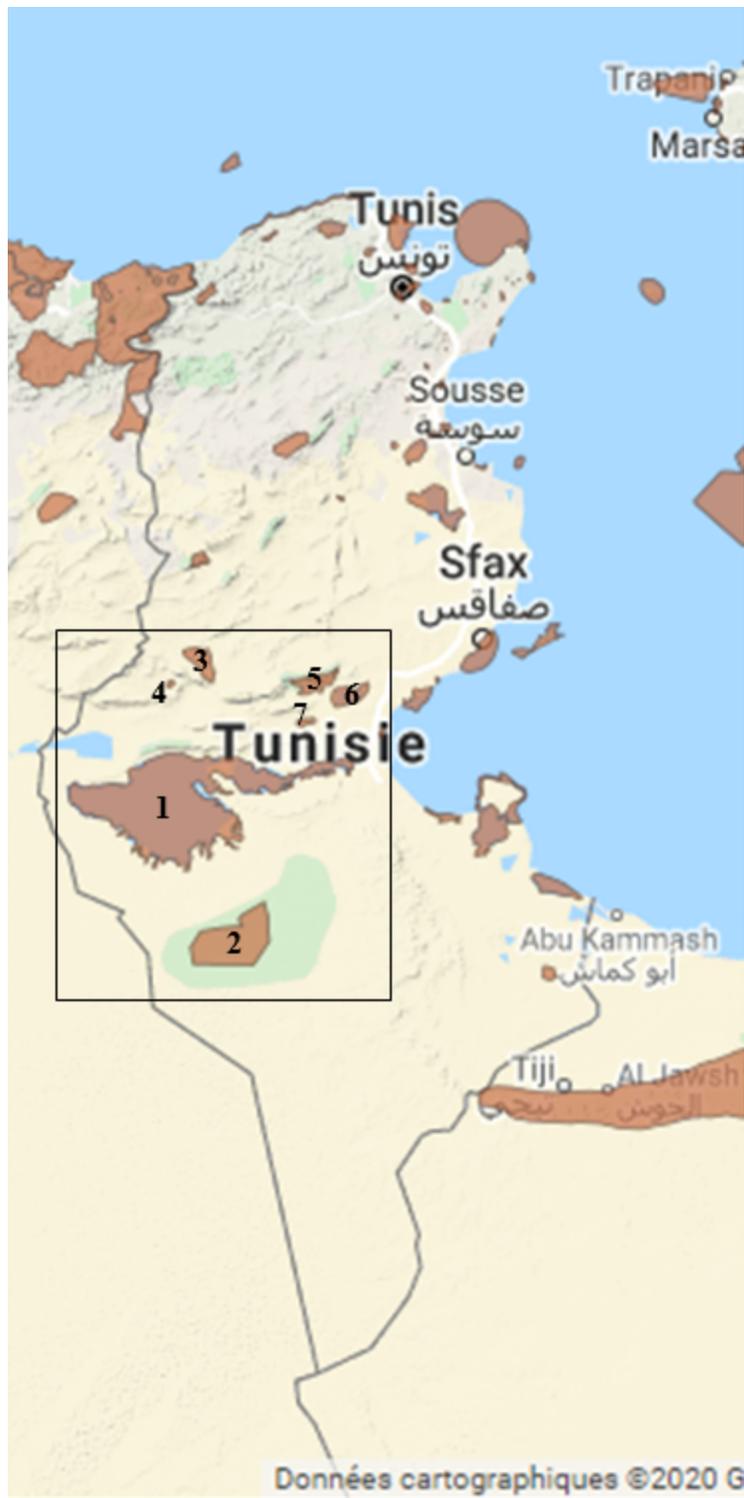
<p><b>Canada comments</b> We appreciate that this project distinctly recognizes the important role of women in conservation and prioritizes female participation in project design and implementation as well as access to project benefits. This appears to be a great example of mainstreaming gender considerations into the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).</p>	<p>The World Bank thanks Canada for the very useful comment and confirm that gender mainstreaming is at the core of the project preparation and implementation and will help in achieving the goal of CBD and the UNCCD. The World Bank would really like to emphasize that a particular attention has been paid to ensure fully mainstreaming of gender issue in the project (from design to implementation) based on the guidance provided in the Manual for gender mainstreaming into LDN transformative projects and programmes (UN WOMEN, GM/UNCCD and IUCN, 2019).</p>
<p><b>Germany comments</b> Germany requests that the Secretariat sends draft final project documents for Council review four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.</p>	<p>The World Bank will comply with this requirement.</p>
<p>Germany requests that the following requirements be taken into account during the design of the final project proposal: the missing section 1a "Project description" (see Part II, p.14) needs to be filled in.</p>	<p>The full description of the project is provided in the World Bank Project Information Document (PID) and Project Document as Annex to the PID (See related files: 3.1_Project Information Document_PID_P169955_11 January 2022.docx AND 3.2_P169955_PID_ANNEX_PROJECT DOCUMENT_11 January 2022.docx). A reference to both documents has been made in the related section of the GEF Data sheet (see file 2.1GEF7 WB Appraisal-CEO Endorsement_Approval_FSP_WAHA_11 January 2022.docx, Part II. Project justification, p. 16).</p>

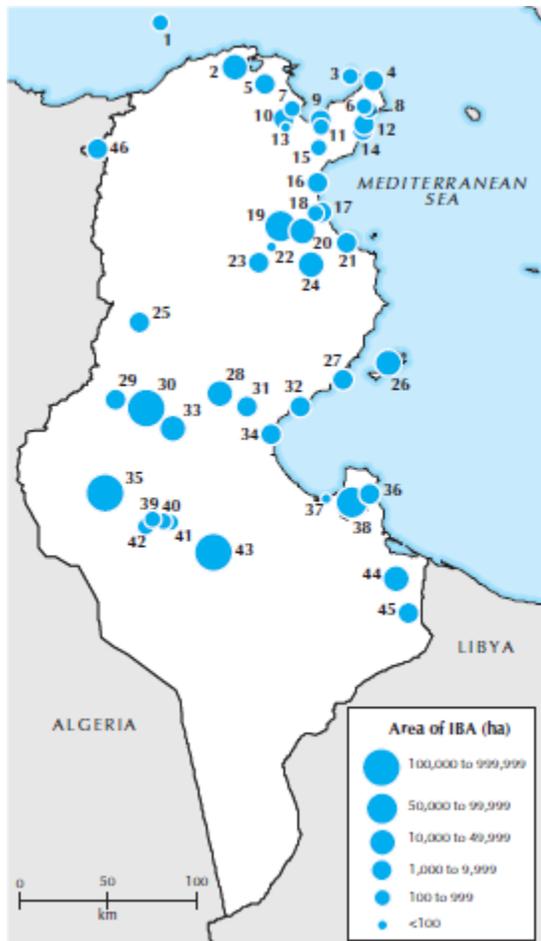
**ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).**  
**(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:**

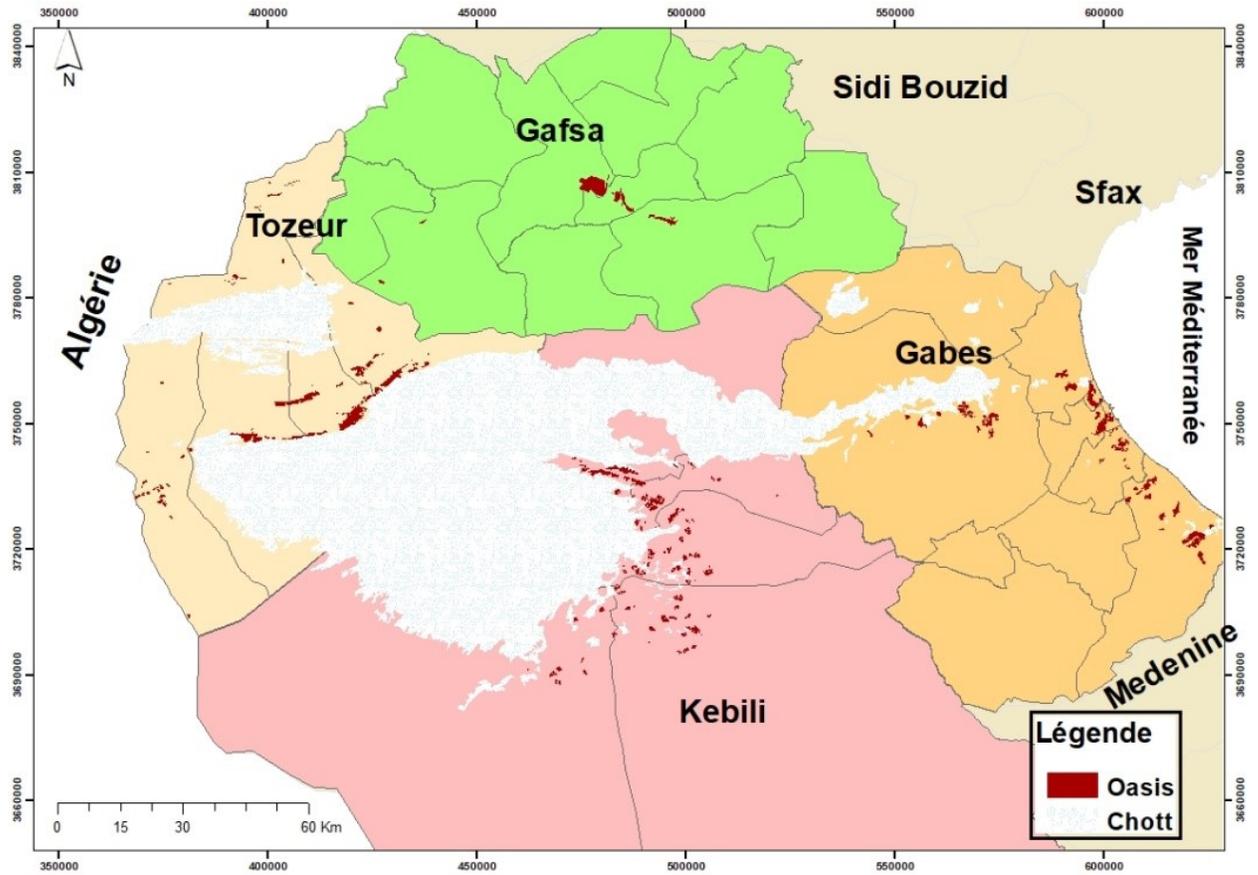
**ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates**

**Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.**









## ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Appendix A: Indicative Project Budget Template

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USD eq.)							Sub-Total	M&E (part of component 3)	PMC	Total	Responsible Entity <small>(Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency [1])</small>
		Component 1 <i>Improve the environmental and economic management of oasis landscapes strengthening gender equality</i>		Component 2 <i>Promote gender responsive sustainable investment in oasis landscapes</i>		Component 3 <i>Gender-responsive project coordination, M&amp;E and communication and knowledge management</i>							
		CP 1.1: Promoting historical oases as part of the national heritage	CP 1.2: Local planning	CP 2.1: Restoring oasis ecosystem functions	CP 2.2: Supporting oases productive alliances and value chains	CP 3.1: Project Coordination	CP 3.2: Project M&E	CP 3.3: Communication and knowledge management					
Works	Restoration works			1,000,000							1,000,000	Government of Tunisia - PMU	
	---												
Goods	Seeds of traditional crops				100,000						100,000	Government of Tunisia - PMU	
	Training equipment				111,443						111,443	Government of Tunisia - PMU	
	Equipment for restoration			500,000							500,000		
Vehicles	---												
Grants/ Sub-grants	---												
Revolving funds/ Seed funds/ Equity	---												
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity													
Contractual Services- Individual	Gender-sensitive analyses of legal & institutional frameworks	220,000									220,000	Government of Tunisia - PMU	
	Preparation and implementation of procurement plans and financial management									73,950	73,950		
Contractual Services- Company	Supporting gender-responsive sustainable investment in oasis landscapes		250,000								250,000	Government of Tunisia - PMU	
	Development of specific tools for M&E system on LD and BD issues						145,000				145,000	Government of Tunisia - PMU	
Contractual Services- Company	Translation, graphic design etc							110,000			110,000	Government of Tunisia - PMU	
International Consultants	International gender expert			80,000							130,000		
	International communication consultant								20,000		20,000	Government of Tunisia - PMU	
Local Consultants	Local communication consultant								35,000		35,000	Government of Tunisia - PMU	
	Local gender expert			80,000					40,000		120,000	Government of Tunisia - PMU	
	Local trainers										50,000		
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Mission allowance										50,000	Government of Tunisia - PMU	
	Deputy Project Manager										100,000	100,000	
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Capacity development and training modules on gender aspects of socioeconomic & environmental dimensions	80,000									80,000	Government of Tunisia - PMU	
	Gendered public consultations		50,000								50,000	Government of Tunisia - PMU	
	Webinars and other communication events							80,000			80,000	Government of Tunisia - PMU	
	Training for women organization				300,000						300,000	Government of Tunisia - PMU	
Travel	---		22,394		80,000	20,183					122,577	Government of Tunisia - PMU	
	---												
Office Supplies	Printing of communication materials							5,000			5,000	Government of Tunisia - PMU	
Other Operating Costs	---												
	---												
<b>Grand Total</b>		300,000	322,394	1,660,000	591,443	170,183	145,000	290,000	3,479,020	173,950	<b>3,652,970</b>		
									3,479,020	173,950	<b>3,652,970</b>		
									0				

[1] In exceptional cases where GEF Agency receives funds for execution, Terms of Reference for specific activities are reviewed by GEF Secretariat

**ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet**

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

**ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows**

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencies is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with

the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

**ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows**

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).